(d) if so, the main finding of the said report; and

(e) the government reactions thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Question do not arise.

Industrial sickness in the country

*278. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that industrial sickness has been a matter of serious concern for the country for over last two decades;

(b) if so, the detatils thereof, industry-wise, and the reasons therefor; and

(c) effective measures being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to tackle the problem of industrial sickness?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. According to the latest available report as at the end of March, 1996, the position of industrial sickness in the country and the outstanding bank credit is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)

Category	No. of units	Outstanding Bank Credit
1. SSI Sick	262376	3721.94
2. Non-SSI Sick	1956	8823.19
3. Non-SSI Weak	418	1203.12
TOTAL :	2,64,750	13,748.25

The industry-wise position of sickness indicates that industrial units in textiles, tngineering, chemicals, iron & steel, paper and electrical sectors are the ones most affected.

A number of causes, both internal and external, often operating in combination, are responsible for industrial sickness. Main causes include deficiencies in planning, management, marketing, technology, etc.

(c) Government has taken a number of steps to tackle the problem of industrial sickness which, inter alia, include, guidelines of Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, National Renewal Fund, National Equity Fund, etc.

High cost of packaging in India

*279. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food processing and other agro based industry